

Climate Action Task Force
Minutes of Meeting
November 24, 2015

Present: George Rawitscher (vice chair), Margaret Rubega, Greg Anderson, Lyle Scruggs, Tim Vadas, Don Hoyle, Gary Bent, Joyce Rawitscher (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Rawitscher.

The October 27, 2015 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Bent/Vadas.

Task force members finished identifying climate related items from the summaries of the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan, chapters 2, 8, 9 & 10. They are as follows:

Chapter 2 – NATURAL SYSTEMS

Potential Actions:

1. Water
 - a. DEEP development of stream flow standards; well field standards
 - b. Adopt Low Impact Development standards for new development:
 - c. Come into Compliance with DEEP storm water discharge general permit
 - d. Replace, improve or (acquire &) remove dams
 - e. Rebuild bridges to withstand higher flooding
 - f. Resize storm water facilities
 - g. Update flood hazard zones > climate change projections
 - h. Restrict new development according to (g).
 - i. Update town engineering standards to account for increased rainfall
 - j. Move utility lines underground on new developments
 - k. Initiate new water conservation regulations/practices (NOT in plan)
 - l. Develop new water storage capabilities (NOT in plan)
2. Forests
 - a. Forest management – adopt on town properties, inform/incentivize for private property:
 - i. Develop guidelines for tree trimming/removal/planting
 - ii. Remove dead, dying, dangerous trees (see i)
 - iii. Prevent/eradicate invasive plants
 - iv. Identify/use native species tolerant of warmer temperatures
 - v. Identify trees appropriate for streets/power line proximity
 - vi. Establish and protect riparian buffers
 - vii. Reduce sapling destruction (control deer population)
 - viii. Regulate to reduce fragmentation of forest fragments
3. Wildlife (recommendations mostly NOT in Plan)
 - a. Protect riparian zones
 - b. Storm water/runoff control
 - c. Reduce forest fragmentation
 - d. Encourage native plants/habitat management on private property
 - e. Active reduction of deer population.

Chapter 8 – FUTURE LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DESIGN

Actions:

1. Walkable, mixed-use “village-style” neighborhoods with more compact housing, in appropriate locations; more neighborhood-oriented places to eat and shop.
2. Smart growth areas feature high quality, sustainable design.

3. More walking, bike and trail connections linking different parts of town.
4. Direct future development away from greenfield sites in most of the town.
5. Accommodate growth in limited areas where public water and sewer are or may become available.
6. Areas of smart use development for future land use are institutional, mixed-use center, and compact residential which are concentrated in campus/downtown Storrs area and East Brook Mall.

Chapter 9 – INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation Actions:

1. Increase bicycle usage through bike lanes, routes, designation
2. Increase mass transit ridership through additional routes, alternative vehicle transportation
3. Restore passenger rail

Water, Wastewater and Storm water Actions:

4. Limit surface water use to defined zones of impactful/dense development
5. Adopt/promote water conservation and reuse policies
6. Promote community septic

Energy Actions:

7. Implement municipal policies on behavior/material use to limit emissions
8. Promote renewable energy through federal, state, NGO incentives
9. Create micro grids
10. Increase resources for electric vehicle charging/use

Resource Efficiency Actions:

11. Reduce, reuse, recycle

Land Use Policies Actions:

12. Smart growth policies/incentives for density, LEED, water conservation, recycling, renewables

Chapter 10 – STEWARDSHIP AND IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter does not pertain to climate change.

Vadas offered to invite fellow civil engineer Manos Anagnostou, who is working on flood mapping, to a future meeting.

Next steps - prioritize climate actions. Prior to December's meeting, Bent will provide the task force with a slide show of projected climate changes in Connecticut.

Gary Bent announced that there will be a prayer vigil at the First Church of Christ every evening from November 30 until December 11 from 7 to 8 pm during the Paris climate conference.

The next meeting date is tentatively changed to Tuesday, December 15, 2015. Walton will confirm the date and meeting location. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton